

VAUDEVILLE AGENTS TO HAVE NEW STATE LAW

Vaudeville agencies who are preying upon performers are going to receive a severe jolt if Richard Knight, general inspector of employment agencies, has his way.

Knight has prepared a bill which is today in Springfield ready for introduction into the state legislature which will, if it passes, eradicate many of the evils of the booking system. It will lessen the leech-like hold the booking agents have on the actor's salary envelope, a hold that sometimes demands usurious commissions for bookings secured.

"There is need of closer regulation of theatrical booking agencies," said Knight today. "There are in Chicago today hundreds of curbstone agents who hold no license. Their only office may be under their hat.

"There is a contract that meets the approval of the inspector, but there is nothing to compel the use of this contract. There is no state law limiting the power of the agents, except in some particulars. The agent can write just about any sort of contract he pleases, and if the performer signs it, it holds.

"If the bill to be introduced at Springfield passes it will mean there will eventually be a set contract by which booking agents and actors must abide. The bill does not specify what this contract shall be. It will permit the agents to collaborate with the commission in forming it. The agents and the commission would agree upon a contract that is just and equitable. Once it is accepted it will be binding upon all. Then the commission would have specific grounds upon which to base action against wrongdoing agents."

W. E. Heaney, manager of the Virginia theater, which was named in a story by Dr. Raceford, an English performer, today gave out his statement of the affair.

"Raceford came to the house through the usual arrangement with

the booking agent. It is customary for the house manager to take out the money due the agent from the performers' salary. This I did. But after this the booking agent will have to obtain their own fees as far as the Virginia theater is concerned."

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS

Milwaukee. — Bomb exploded in window of Vincenzo Zingolas' grocery store; no one injured; black handers suspected.

New York. — Police huting for "ripper murderer" who has murdered two children in hallways of East Side tenements.

Columbus, O. — Ohio supreme court held unconstitutional 1896 statute making an employer liable to fine or imprisonment if he coerces or discharges an employee for belonging to a labor union.

St. Paul, Minn. — Henry Ott instantly killed, other workmen injured by explosion in gas tank car being repaired on Great Western railroad.

New York. — Grief over death of his brother, Frederick Townsend Martin, has caused Howard Townsend Martin to lose mind. Committed to sanitarium.

New York. — John Bunney, funny man of movies and idol of millions of American children, left estate of only \$8,000.

Peoria, Ill. — Small cyclone picked up Catherine Agnes Barberis, baby at Guardian Angel Orphanage, hurled her to ground, killing her instantly.

Brainerd, Minn. — After quarrel with wife about money matters, Gustave Menz, retired farmer, shot and killed her and suicided.

LIMITED RESULTS

Blink (the wholesaler) — Well, how many orders did you get yesterday.

Gink (the salesman) — I got two orders in one shop.

Blink — What were they?

Gink — One was to get out and the other was to stay out.